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NEWS RELEASE

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HOAX IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE 471 WEST CONGRESS – GREYHOUND BUS TERMINAL

At approximately 9:45 a.m. on March 13, 2012, the Tucson Police Department received a 911 call from security personnel at the Greyhound bus terminal at 471 West Congress reporting a suspicious device in a trash receptacle. The caller reported that a customer had observed a device that appeared to be a bomb in a trash container that was just outside the main doors to the terminal. The caller verified the existence of the device, and then Greyhound personnel initiated an evacuation of all customers and staff. Officers from Operations Division Downtown responded to the area and were on scene within one minute of the call. Officers assisted with the evacuation process and cordoned off a safe area around the facility.

A full call-out of the Tucson Police Department's Explosives and Hazardous Devices Detail (EHDD), or Bomb Squad, brought personnel with extensive specialized training and equipment to the scene to continue the investigation. All preliminary efforts to identify the nature of the device were inconclusive and the assessment was that it was either an actual improvised explosive device, or a hoax device that had been meticulously and deliberately fabricated to ensure that it appeared to be an actual explosive device.

Following several examinations of the device with the aid of a remotely operated bomb robot, the device was disrupted on site to ensure that it did not explode during further examination or handling. Following the disruption, which was performed without incident, the components of the device were analyzed and determined to be inert. Based on the composition and construction of the hoax device, had it been composed of actual and not simulated explosives, it would have been capable of causing a debris field of approximately 700 feet in diameter. Due to the location, such an explosion would have impacted the east and westbound lanes of Interstate 10, as well as private and government facilities in the surrounding area.

Detectives from the Special Investigations Division responded to the scene to continue the criminal investigation. Detectives have examined and collected evidence, and interviewed witnesses, and are working to determine the identity of the suspect or suspects involved in the placement of this hoax explosive device.

The Tucson Police Department urges anyone with information about this incident to call **911** or **88-CRIME**.

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For accommodations; materials in accessible formats; foreign language interpreters; and/or materials in a language other than English, please contact the Tucson Police Department Public Information Office at (520) 791-4852 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD at least five (5) business days in advance. Para arreglos; materiales en formatos accesibles; interpretes de idioma extranjero; y/o materiales en otro idioma que no sea inglés, por favor comunicarse al Departamento de la Policía de Tucson a la sección de Información Pública al (520) 791-4852 o (520) 791-2639 para TDD por lo menos con cinco (5) días hábiles de anticipación.